

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1882.

Announcements To-Day.

- America's Park**—Festive—Fancy
Academy of Design—Garrison
Bijou Opera—The Sage—Caruso
Bonelli's Theatre—The Interceptor
Bonelli's Museum—Machinery—Admiral
Burke's Theatre—Theatrical Review
Cambria—Theatre—Society
Grand Opera House—Promotional Concert—Review
Hercules' Niche Garden—Theatrical Review
Hercules' City St. Theatre—Review—Studies
Hercules' City St. Theatre—Review
Martin's Theatre—Society
Saint Francis Xavier Church—Cathedral—School
Standard Theatre—Review
Streatham Hall—Review
Theatre—Theatrical—Review
Theatre Comique—Society—Review
Theatre Francaise—Review
Vivian Grey's School—Review—Concert
Walkers' Theatre—The Money-Spinners
Windham Thomas—Cathedral—Parks—Review

McDonald.

We find in the Cincinnati *Enquirer* a warm commendation of Mr. Joseph E. McDONALD of Indiana as a possible Democratic candidate for President. "His views," says the *Enquirer*, "have been those of the old-type of Democrat in the days of VAN BUREN; he has never deflected in times of temptation on any sort of question."

There are several things in Mr. McDONALD's character and history which would seem to make him more practicable than the general run of Democratic statesmen. He is a man of strong abilities and of conservative disposition. We have no doubt that if he had been nominated in 1880, after Mr. TILDEN had declined, he would have been elected; but Mr. HENDRICKS had such power over the Indiana delegation that he was able to exclude McDONALD and defeat the Democracy. Whether he will have the same power in 1884 is another question; and it is also doubtful whether Mr. McDONALD would make as available a candidate then as he would have made four years before. We say it is doubtful, yet we do not doubt that he will be.

That at the close of Mr. McDONALD's career in the Senate he voted in favor of the Slave route Post Office swindles; and, pursuing the same impudent and unpatriotic course, he subsequently lent his influence in behalf of JAY GOULD in the confirmation of STANLEY MARTIN as a Judge of the Supreme Court! Neither of these transactions can recommend Mr. McDONALD to the people in 1884.

The Irish Question in Parliament.

In the Queen's speech with which Parliament was opened yesterday, the condition of Ireland was described as improved; and the results of the Cabinet's Irish policy were pronounced satisfactory.

The correctness of the statement will be questioned in the debate on the amendment with which Irish members will propose to modify the usual address submitted by the House of Commons in reply. Some weighty reasons will be given for disputing the wisdom and the baseness of the treatment which Ireland and Irishmen have received from Mr. GLADSTONE.

That Mr. PARSELL has not lost the confidence of the Home Rule members in the House of Commons, or of the great body of Irish voices which they represent, is manifest from the action taken at a meeting of the Irish Parliamentary party. No attempt was made to supersede him on the part of his colleagues, who, on the contrary, showed themselves glad to act as the lieutenants of their absent leader. So far, therefore, as such a thing is practicable, Mr. PARSELL will direct from his prison the cause of the thirty members of the imperial legislature who were elected to advocate the rights of Ireland.

Such are some of the reasons to be given for dissenting from the address in which the supporters of the Ministry approve its Irish policy. If it be well for a country that some of its constituents should be disenchanted while the men whom they chose to speak for them in the national legislature languish behind prison bars; if it be well that a large part of the Irish people should be tasks with anxiety and sick with hope deferred; then Mr. GRATSTON may reasonably be thanked for the improvement he has brought about in Ireland.

Probing the Chiriqui Job.

The resolution adopted by the House calling on the Secretary of the Navy for information about the Chiriqui stations, and graciously requesting him to withhold payment for them, was rather queer. For Judge HUNT himself had been the very man who resisted this payment, although the Chiriqui Job, as his annual report shows, had constantly impeded him for the money from the moment he entered into his present office; while it was Congress that less than seven months ago voted \$200,000 to pay the stations.

The truth is that Secretary HUNT, with the knowledge which many officers had furnished him on the Chiriqui job, could not honorably have helped to consummate it. The item in the Sundry Civil bill which contained the appropriation prescribed that the Secretary of the Navy should appropriate the stations which it was proposed to purchase. Mr. R. W. THOMPSON, under whose patronage the scheme was begun, and already ceased to be the head of the navy, and a few days before the passage of the bill his successor, MR. NATHAN GORE, who had originally recommended it, as well as Mr. R. B. HAYES and his private secretary, W. R. ROGERS, who was interested in it, had also been relegated to private life. Judge HUNT became Secretary of the Navy, and still he was compelled to resign his office.

It may be said that Mr. PARSELL's constituents are not disenchanted, because they can withdraw to resign and choose another in his place; but they will have neither. They want him, and they may justly demand themselves disengaged from the right of suffrage with the voice they deliberately chose to speak for them in hushed behind prison walls. It may be rejoined, however, that any British constituency may lose its vote in the legislature, if its representative commits a crime entailing on him the loss of personal liberty. But of what crime is Mr. PARSELL guilty? Mr. GLADSTONE dare not tax him with a crime, for then he cannot not refuse him the privilege so precious by every British subject of a prompt hearing and a fair trial. The Irish champion is impeded on a law's suspicion of statutory offence, and he need not be disengaged from the right enjoyed by the foolish cohort in Great Britain, that, namely, of securing by a will of habeas corpus an opportunity of refuting the charge against him. We do not wonder that the question of prolonging Mr. PARSELL's imprisonment after the opinion of Parliament gave rise to sharp discussion and serious agitation in the Cabinet. There are men in the Ministry who feel that no Englishman or Scotch constituency would permit itself to be disengaged by the art of an箇eligionist, and that, among what is the personal infidelity of its members, and the indecency of its proceedings, there must be some stain even from the point of view of the law.

Admiral W. J. AXES, our naval statesman, has learned from the United States Minister to Britain that the law officers of the Government of Colombia had decided that the Chiriqui grant to AMBROSE W. THOMPSON was valid through the non-fulfillment of its conditions; but he says that, in any case, "that on this basis is almost *casus beli*, and any one settling there and cultivating it becomes the possessor." This is the fund for which the HAYES-ROGERS plan proposed to take \$200,000 from the Treasury.

The principal argument which the Chiriqui lobby presented to Congress last winter was that \$200,000 annually would be saved to the Government by the purchase of the Ambozo-Torres stations on the Isthmus. There ought to be some indignation among those Congressmen who were deceived by this statement, made by HAYES'S Secretary of the Navy and brought before the House Committee by W. K. ROGERS, when they read the following words of Admiral WYMAN:

"It is difficult to understand how such a statement can be made, as it is a statement of the national legislation as it exists in the person of the British members. The House of Commons has all the time shown a tacitly intense jealousy of its prerogatives, and among what is the personal infidelity of its members, and the indecency of its proceedings, there must be some stain even from the point of view of the law."

The Virgin Islands of Mr. PARSELL's constituents are not the only ground on which the complaint referred to Ireland in the Queen's speech will be leveled. It will be roundly said that, if the Land not come from the person of Dr. LEWIS, Mr. GLADSTONE accepted a conservative measure, giving him a right of appeal from the Land Commission to the High Court of Appeal at Westminster. Mr. PARSELL's constituents are not the only ones to do this.

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